

The model preparation of a visitor centre on the example of the Železné hory National Geopark (Iron Mountains National Geopark), Czech Republic

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The Železné hory National Geopark is located in the heart of the Czech Republic, approximately 100 km east of Prague. Its area (777 km²) is not too large, but its geological diversity is one of the most interesting areas in our country. In the Geopark you can see a number of geological phenomena in two or three days. It is an open-air geological textbook.

Geology is presented in different ways in the Geopark. There are geological nature trails connected to the network, museum exhibitions, outdoor exhibitions of stone blocks and individual geotourism attractiveness. The next step for the support of geotourism is the building of visitor centres as imaginary gateways to the Geopark. Podhůra – the Educational and Visitor Centre (VNC Podhůra) is the North gate entrance, which was created in cooperation of Chrudim City, Protected Landscape Area of the Železné hory and the Geopark.

The new visitor centre is building up in one of the most frequent places at the entrance to the city forest. Near here there are also lots of popular tourist destinations. Since its inception there is some premise to interconnect three components - geology, nature untouched by humans, and the cultural forest ecosystem. The upgrade of the exhibition is a passive energy demand of the whole object, so the building will be concurrently the exposition. The preparation of the project is the perfect “cookbook” for other objects of the same or similar using. The exhibitions emphasize to the interactivity, childlike playfulness and variability.

The aim of the Železné hory National Geopark is to build up a network of gateways from the main cardinal points. All visitor centres will be focused on different topic, so that they will not compete with each other. Their connection will create meaningful geotourism products.

Presented in Theme 4